

IAMCR International Council Meeting

Agenda

**10.00-16.00 Venue to be announced
Stockholm, Sunday, 20 July 2008**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes of the last Meeting (22 July 2007, attached Appendix 1) and Matters Arising
4. President's report and update including:
 - ICA-IAMCR renewal of agreement (see Appendix 2) for approval by GA
 - COMPOS agreement for approval by GA (see Appendix 3)
 - ALAIC agreement for approval by GA (see Appendix 4)
 - AMIC agreement for approval by GA (see Appendix 5)
5. Vice Presidents' reports
6. Secretary General's report
7. Treasurer's Report and Finance and Budget Committee issues
8. Report from the Section Heads meeting
9. Conference Committee
 - discussion on future conferences (see Appendix 6)
10. Membership and Regionalisation Committee
11. Election Committee
 - Geographical representation proposal (see Appendix 7)
 - Clarification of election procedures for Section Heads and WG Chairs (see Appendix 8)
12. Scholarly Review Committee
 - proposals for changes:
 - a) Anders Hansen, Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication Working Group – upgrade to Section (see Appendix 9)
 - b) Marjan De Bruin, Communication and HIV Working Group – upgrade to Section (see Appendix 10)
 - c) Ester Pollak and Sigurd Allern, new Working Group on Crises Communication (see Appendix 11).
13. Website and membership database maintenance (Bruce Girard in attendance)

14. Taskforce on Media and Communication Policy report
15. Ad hoc committee on Cultural Diversity
16. Legal Committee
17. Publications Committee
18. Other business arising

Appendix 1
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL
PARIS, 22ND OF JULY 2007

Present: Carlos Barrera, Alina Bernstein, César Bolano, Marjan de Bruin, Andrew Calabrese, Tania Cantrell, John Downing, Hopeton Dunn, Bruce Girard, Cees J. Hamelink, Todd Holden, Beate Josephi, Sophia Kaitatzi-Whitlock, Ullamaija Kivikuru, Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Friedrich Krotz, Rico Lie, Manuel Parés y Maicas, Philippe Maarek, Alvaro Mailhos, Robin Mansell, Rosa Mikael Martey, Divina Frau-Meigs, Virginia Nightingale, Kaarle Nordenstreng, Hillel Nossek, Allen Palmer, Ole Prehn, Peter Putnis, Marc Raboy, Andrei Richter, Ellen Riordan, Mohammad Siddiqi, John Sinclair, Tania Ribeiro Soares, Sujatha Sosale, Annabelle Sreberny, Laura Stein, Daya Thussu, Elena Vartonova, Jürgen Wilke, Janet Wasko.

1. Apologies for absence

The president opened the meeting by welcoming all present and sent apologies from president of ICA, Sonia Livingstone, who would attend the conference later to co-chair the joint IAMCR/ICA session. And she welcomed especially Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos, both responsible for managing the web site.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting 23rd July 2006 in Cairo were approved. Matters arising would be included in the agenda.

4. President's report and update

The president started by announcing that the Halloran memorial during this conference would be followed up by Halloran lectures at subsequent conferences. She also drew the attention to the booklet on IAMCR's history issued in memory of Jim Halloran. She then thanked Divina Frau-Meigs and her team for organising this anniversary conference as a success with around 900 participants. A lot of time had in the past year been spent on improving the web site, and she thanked Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos for their hard work, and Tomas Gonsorcik for the work he had offered to the IAMCR web site. To improve the web more systematically, she proposed that an Internet Oversight Committee should be established.

During the year she had tried to involve more associations as associate members with some success, e.g. with ALAIC, with whom an agreement had recently been signed. UNESCO had commissioned four reports to be discussed in the programme, and she thanked UNESCO for their willingness in that way to contribute to the conference. The board had agreed to hold one or more pre-conference in Stockholm as suggested by Friederich Krotz. Pre-conferences should be financed by participants attending these.

She mentioned that ICA had a success rate of 45% of proposed papers, but more importantly that ICA had spent around \$25,000 on bringing people from poor countries to their conferences. This fact might have implications for the IAMCR.

In her closing remarks, Robin Mansell announced that she would not stand for re-election as President in 2008, but might be willing to serve the association otherwise if asked.

5. Report from vice-president Divina Frau-Meigs

The vice-president concentrated on the Paris conference, which she hoped would be a memorable and successful event that attracted 800-900 participants with a large number of papers to be presented. She thanked UNESCO for its immense collaboration during the planning stage, especially Dr. Kahn. This collaboration could be seen as a new and promising era in the UNESCO/IAMCR relationship to be developed, so that IAMCR would not only retain its observer status, but also widen it to be recognised as an umbrella organisation with regional affiliates. During the post-WSIS phase, a lot of meetings had taken place and she had attended those on several action-lines. She had taken on the responsibility as moderator in the sub-theme of cultural diversity. She proposed to set up an ad hoc group, which was approved to address this area. Finally, she stressed the importance of establishing a strategy for the continued work.

6. Report from vice-president Annabelle Sreberny

The vice-president presented the status of the Newsletter which was being issued biannually and even making a profit by selling advertising space. The only and costly problem was that of printing and posting, and she suggested that the distribution in the future should be limited to electronic circulation. People with no access to downloading pdf-files could ask for hard copies. This was approved. She went on to other parts of IAMCR publishing activities, mentioning that Sage had taken on the distribution of our three discounted journals, and that the publishing of IAMCR books with Hampton was continuing – although at relatively slow pace. Finally she said that the contract with Blackwell for the Global Media Handbook Series was now in operation. The early stages of planning were well underway and the series was not expected to compete with the Hampton books. Regretfully Thomas Tufte had announced his resignation from managing the Hampton series, and it was suggested that he would be replaced by Marjan de Bruin and Claudio Padovani, which was endorsed.

7. Secretary General's report

It was announced that IAMCR had entered into an agreement to hold its 2009 conference in Mexico City at the end of July 2009. Further there had been a follow up on Colin Sparks' contact with Fudan University (Shanghai), and a final agreement was pending on the approval by Chinese authorities to have the next conference (2010) be to be held in Shanghai. He also mentioned that Portugal was in the pipeline for 2011. He forwarded a list of people proposed as honorary members of IAMCR during this 50th anniversary conference. The list was accepted.

8. Treasurer's report

The treasurer proposed a budget of \$50,000 which was approved. The informal auditors (Jan van Cuilenburg and Philip Lee) had approved the financial statement and had both observed that IAMCR was now back on track with rising income from membership fees. This resulted in an estimated overall balance of \$ 150,000 in surplus at the end of 2007. It was suggested that some of this should be applied to specific purposes as they arose and were agreed. The treasurer referred to the paper he had issued on "Democratization of the IAMCR. Advances Between 2004 and 2007. New Challenges". The president mentioned the contract with ALAIC and stressed that this model, where members of ALAIC could enter the conferences at a lower fee, would also apply to other organisations, although at different agreed fee levels for individuals (subsequently during the conference a similar agreement was signed with AMIC in Latin America). The International Council generally welcomed the initiative as a way forward with IAMCR's regionalised internationalisation.

9. The web site

Bruce Girard and Alvaro Mailhos went through the development of the web sites and its obstacles. They suggested the establishing of an oversight committee with a maximum of four members to guide them as and when issues arose and to advise on the further development of the site further. They pointed to the fact that each section and working group now had the possibility of establishing their own sub-sites that could be edited in a decentralized way.

10. Scholarly Review Committee report

Kaarle Nordenstreng said that the work of the committee was lagging behind, but that a full proposal would be ready for the next General Assembly. It would include criteria for establishing and dismantling sections. It was not the ambition to superimpose a central model, but to build it up from the bottom. He mentioned that names for sections and working groups better reflecting their remits should be elaborated and asked for the help from the sections and working groups. The president asked all sections and working groups to look at their mission statements and propose ideas for changing the labels. Milton Campus' proposal to dismantle the working group on health technology and communication was approved, whereas his proposal for a new working group seemed a little diffuse and was not accepted. The Junior Scholars' Network was renamed the Emerging Scholars' Network. The International Communication Section was discussed, and it was suggested that the name might need to be changed as it was vague. This would be on the agenda in Stockholm.

11. Task force on Media and Communication

Andrew Calabrese referred to the charter approved in Cairo. The ambition was to take an active and interventionist role and to keep up the momentum after the WSIS. It should not develop into a new section but should rather be seen as a facilitator or coordinator.

12. Legal Committee

Philippe Maarek announced that a French version of the statutes was ready. During the translation a few technical issues had arisen resulting in proposals for changes in the statutes. These would need to be approved at the General Assembly in 2008. As the president had indicated she would not run for re-election, the committee proposed to reinstate the past-president seat in the board (without voting rights) for two years to maintain continuity in the association. This was generally approved and should be part of the proposals for changing the statutes.

13. Election Committee

Janet Wasko went through the election procedure, and Philippe Maarek pointed to the fact that all elected positions were set at zero in 2004, formally making way for re-election of those who had been elected in that year, and that an early warning would be published on the vacant presidency.

14. The Stockholm conference 2008

Ester Pollack introduced the conference to be held at Stockholm University at the end of July 2008. It was approved that in the future, IAMCR will operate with two different events (each biannually): a five day congress including the General Assembly, and a four day conference: 2008 being the five day Congress year. Friederich Krotz mentioned that we should actively encourage more concrete and output oriented pre-conferences.

15. Membership and Participation Committee

Ullamaija Kivikuru presented the report that was an extension of earlier reports. It was noted with satisfaction, that many of the proposals contained in recent reports were

now to a certain degree implemented. She indicated that the new membership database is extremely helpful for generating data about the members. It is clear that the paid-up membership is now at about the same level as 10-15 years ago, although comparisons needed to be made with care with respect to the details. The composition of members is such that European members tend to favour institutional membership, while the rest prefer individual membership. Only 20 % of the membership is from outside Europe and North America and it is those who most regularly attend conferences. The report concluded with the following recommendations:

That IAMCR continues to appoint regional liaison persons to collaborate with existing regional organisations in the field;
that regional workshops etc. should be hosted by IAMCR;
that IAMCR should continue recruiting emerging scholars; that we should find ways to decrease the conference attendance drop-out rate; and
that we should encourage especially doctoral students to submit papers to the IAMCR conferences.

It was proposed to change the committee name to the Membership and Regionalisation Committee which would be comprised of: Cesar Bolano and Daya Thussu (co-chairs), Ullamaija Kivikuru, Ibrahim Saleh, Hopeton Dunn, Catherine Loneux, Rosa Mikeal Martey.

16. Report from the section heads meeting

Beate Josephi summed up the main conclusions of the meeting representing 13 sections and some observers. First of all there was unanimous satisfaction with the work done by the local organising committee chaired by Divina Frau-Meigs, who was congratulated for this achievement. It was pointed out that it would be advantageous if there was only one way to submit abstracts; that is, through the official IAMCR web site, and that the procedure for finalising the conference programme should be streamlined. It was therefore proposed, that the deadline for submitting abstracts should be January 31st and the programme should be fully finalised on March 31st. Therefore, the programme schedule should be completed in mid March by the Secretary General. The latter was approved.

Finally on behalf of the meeting, Beate Josephi congratulated President Robin Mansell for her achievements during her presidency and for bringing back trust and confidence in IAMCR among its members.

17. Other business arising

Wolfgang Kleinwächter informed the meeting that GIGANET would conduct a summer school on internet governance, and that UNESCO was a sponsor of this event. The president closed the meeting and the International Council saluted her for bringing IAMCR back on the track.

Appendix 2 Memorandum of Understanding between ICA and IAMCR 2008

In order to develop collaborative and constructive relations between these two international associations, a bilateral agreement has been reached, as follows:

1. IAMCR is accorded honorary Association Member status (providing full access to website and one set of journals to one nominated representative) and ICA is (already) an IAMCR Associate Member (with one nominated representative to receive the newsletter)
2. Board meetings of the ICA are attended by a formal representative of the IAMCR in a non-voting capacity and International Council meetings of the IAMCR are attended by a formal representative of the ICA in a non-voting capacity (resolution passed by ICA Board, May 2005).
3. IAMCR is allocated one session in ICA's annual conference programme and ICA is allocated one session in IAMCR's annual conference programme.
4. The associations exchange information regarding communication research and teaching, and help each other in distributing information regarding conferences and events of interest to their members; further forms of collaboration, centred on specific projects, are anticipated and encouraged from time to time.

Appendix 3: COMPOS Agreement

Agreement

The Presidents of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and COMPOS, representing the members of both associations, agree to:

1. reduce membership fees in IAMCR for COMPOS individual members to USD15.00 on condition that payment is made using the Paypal payment system at the IAMCR website (a discount from the full low income country individual membership fee of USD20.00). Individuals would not be entitled to receive a journal unless they pay an additional USD40.00. No alternative means of payment can be accepted by IAMCR for cost reasons.
2. in return, COMPOS will distribute IAMCR printed materials in its mailing, publicize the agreement in its journal and newsletter and pass to IAMCR its list of members annually.
3. COMPOS and IAMCR agree to foster interaction between working groups and sections with similar interests and to encourage meetings, publications, etc.

The objective of this agreement is to increase the number of Latin American members in IAMCR and its academic and political relevance to scholars based in Latin America, and to promote bilateral and regional actions.

Profesor Robin Mansell
President IAMCR, 1 March 2008

President COMPOS

Appendix 4 Agreement ALAIC

Acuerdo

Los Presidentes de la International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) y la Asociación Latinoamericana de Investigadores de la Comunicación (ALAIC), representando a los miembros de ambas asociaciones, acuerdan:

1. Reducir las tasas de membresía en la IAMCR para los miembros individuales de ALAIC de \$us. 15 bajo la condición de que el pago sea hecho mediante el sistema de pago Paypal en el sitio web de la IAMCR (un descuento de \$us. 20 del total de la tasa de membresía individual). Los miembros individuales no tendrán derecho a recibir la publicación (journal) a menos que paguen un monto adicional de \$us. 40. Ningún otro medio de pago será aceptado por la IAMCR por razones de costo.
2. En correspondencia, la ALAIC distribuirá los materiales impresos de la IAMCR a los suscritos a su lista electrónica, publicará el acuerdo en su revista y boletín y pasará anualmente a la IAMCR su lista de miembros.
3. La ALAIC organizará, durante cada una de sus conferencias, encuentros entre representantes de los directorios de la IAMCR y la ALAIC para elaborar planes de cooperación para la acción bilateral.
4. La ALAIC y la IAMCR acuerdan fomentar la interacción entre grupos de trabajo y secciones con intereses similares y promover reuniones, publicaciones, etc.

El objetivo de este acuerdo es incrementar el número de miembros latinoamericanos en la IAMCR y la relevancia académica y política de los investigadores basados en América Latina así como promover acciones bilaterales y regionales.

Profesor Robin Mansell
Presidente de la IAMCR

Erick Torrico Villanueva
Presidente de la ALAIC

Abril de 2007

Appendix 5: Agreement AMIC Agreement

The Presidents of the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) and AMIC, representing the members of both associations, agree to:

1. reduce membership fees in IAMCR for AMIC individual members to USD15.00 on condition that payment is made using the Paypal payment system at the IAMCR website (a discount from the full low income country individual membership fee of USD20.00). Individuals would not be entitled to receive a journal unless they pay an additional USD40.00. No alternative means of payment can be accepted by IAMCR for cost reasons.
2. in return, AMIC will distribute IAMCR printed materials in its mailing, publicize the agreement in its journal and newsletter and pass to IAMCR its list of members annually.
3. AMIC will organize, during each organisation's conference, meetings between representatives of the boards of IAMCR and ALAIC to elaborate cooperation plans for bilateral action.
4. AMIC and IAMCR agree to foster interaction between working groups and sections with similar interests and to encourage meetings, publications, etc.

The objective of this agreement is to increase the number of Latin American members in IAMCR and its academic and political relevance to scholars based in Latin America, and to promote bilateral and regional actions.

Profesor Robin Mansell
President IAMCR

President AMIC

July 2007

Appendix 6: Discussion on future IAMCR conferences/congresses

We have received several inputs regarding the future format of our conferences (these are below plus the existing conference/congress guidelines at the end). Manuel Parés y Maicas, Marjan de Bruin, Virginia Nightingale, and Hillel Nossek have contributed to the discussion. They and others in earlier discussions asked the IC to deal with the future format, in general, based on the observation that our present modality is not sufficiently intellectual stimulating and often lacks academic quality.

In summary, we need to discuss:

Content/ organisational structure:

- should we change the format of the conferences/congresses?
- should we have more or distinct conference themes in the world context?
- should we feature prominent researchers in the field?
- should we involve the EB/IC more directly in planning the conferences with the local organisers? (consultation has always taken place over each of the past 4 years between the President and local organisers – and members of the EB to an extent).
- should we operate in a mutual and transparent mode regarding selections of papers, specifically how?
- should we publish proceedings of the conference? We have had one complaint about the fact that we do not do so.
- have advisory boards for each section?
- abolish the distinction between working groups and sections? What implications for the size of the International Council?
- allow sections to invite keynote speakers and include the cost in the congress/conference budget – local organisers or IAMCR budget itself?
- involve the IC more directly in the appointment/election of section chairs?
- establish more prizes awarded by sections/working groups for best papers and/or best books, etc.?
- should we ensure that all sections/working groups have poster sessions and encourage these as valued contributions, rather than as a left-over category?
- change structure of many section/working group sessions to permit more time for discussion?
- organise cross-cutting sessions to discuss key concepts/methodologies?

Other issues:

- should we insist on maximum registration fee for high income country participants, e.g. USD 350 for five day congress, as per existing guidelines (see below)? How to enforce this?

- introduce an emeritus professor reduced conference/congress fee? This has been requested.
- should we abandon the practice of encouraging local organisers to provide lunches and/or evening food within the conference/congress registration fee, e.g. more like ICA?
- should we mandate the discount rates (half for low income country, etc.) for conference/congress registration fees for low income countries and students?
- can we/should we insist that we are provided with underlying details of local host organisation cost structure (fixed and variable costs) in advance of approving a proposal to host the conference?
- can we ensure that local organisers always have two years to organise conference?
- should we change to a full conference every year of 3 or 4 days duration?
- privilege rotation in the five major regions where we have members, so that European locations come up less often and the balance with other areas is restored?
- earlier cycle of paper acceptance to help those accepted find funding to attend the conferences?

Robin Mansell and Ole Prehn, 21 June 2008

Summary of various comments and observations (listed alphabetically):

Marjan de Bruin

"...Several of us were fortunate enough to attend the ICA conference in Montreal, which ended yesterday. The ICA had made sure that in several small plenaries, where the focus was not on paper presentations, the panelists and audience were able to participate in discussions on current conceptual and methodological challenges. The selection of speakers and the choice of topics were done carefully so that the audience could almost count on an interesting debate, challenging traditional notions and theories.

This was a welcome change: many paper presentation sessions in ICA and perhaps also in IAMCR have become presentation factories with hardly any time for discussion.

I assume that the format for IAMCR 2008 Stockholm/ Sweden has already been set and signed off on. However, it is not too late to discuss this issue in relation to our 2009 Conference.

The introduction of poster sessions is an opportunity to offer more people space for attendance - which is often a condition for funding enabling their participation and a personal concern for career mobility. If we could make sure that inclusion in posters sessions is valued as a real appreciation of work and not as a "rest" category, we could free up time for:

- a) more in-depth paper discussions and
- b) urgently needed academic discussions on the need to revise traditional concepts and approaches.

Several of these themes run across sections and working groups.

Gabriel Hadi Vice-Chair Community Communication Section

- ACCOMODATION: make not only bulk reservations in relatively expensive hotels, but also cheap hotels, hostels and university dorms (and make this clear on the website...)
- PASS OPTIONS: 'no meal' passes, and cheap single-day passes so people can at least afford to attend the sessions they are supposed to present in.
- BOOST and PROMOTE GRANTS: travel grants need to be more substantial, be announced much better, and the process needs to be more transparent.
- SLIDING SCALE: fees on a sliding scale according to actual income, not only simple categories like 'low income country' or 'student'.
- REDISTRIBUTION of RESOURCES: rethinking the assumption that everyone has to pull their own weight. In organizing conferences for OURMedia/NUESTROSMedios, a network of citizens, alternative and

community practitioners and researchers, for example, those who can pay higher fees gladly do so knowing it helps support attendance of others. ...

- RESOURCEFULNESS: more can be done with less. ... Use volunteer translators in exchange for a discount pass...
- MORE DIVERSIFIED FUNDRAISING: in the future, much more fundraising can be done.
 - (a) section heads could be encouraged to do/support fundraising, i.e. for specific panels.
 - (b) international council members should take a very active role, especially in securing bilateral funds (e.g. Friendship societies...)
 - (c) individual participants should be encouraged/supported in doing their own fundraising. Calls for papers/conference announcements/conference websites should include lists of resources for them. Letters of invitation should be issuable well in advance if necessary; approval of papers by section heads 3-4 months before the conference may be too late in many countries/situations. there could be a system of 'early submission, early accept/reject' for those who need early letters of invitation.
 - (d) a standing international fundraising team would coordinate all these efforts. Local organizers alone cannot do this efficiently.
- TRANSPARENCY about SPONSORING: when working with sponsors, be explicit about and discuss the tradeoffs - strings attached to sponsorship need to be discussed not only within the local committee.

Philippe Maarek

"As several of us have already pointed out, the newly elected board should seriously rethink the organisational structure of our meetings and maybe not delegate the problems completely to the local organisers, as in the past IAMCR did, until now, in order to match the 350 US Dollars maximum (lunches included)..."

Virginia Nightingale

".... Having shouldered the responsibility of being a Section Chair for the last three years, I have to confess to some disappointment at the quality of the papers offered to our conference and to the fact that so few of the leading academics in the various fields covered by IAMCR attend.

This is, as Manuel correctly observes, directly linked to the quality of the academic stimulation our conference is providing. From my experience the conference themes and the plenaries are often quite missable events...this is in part because the world changed around us in the last quarter of the last century. The celebrity academics we previously used as drawcards no longer exist. Our fields have fragmented under the weight of information delivered by the internet, the world wide web and the publication agendas of the major academic publishing companies. The excitement of our conference has shifted accordingly from the plenaries to the Sections and Working Groups.

I would like to ask the International Council to consider measures we might take to streamline the operations of sections and working groups, and particularly to involve

the leading scholars in each area addressed by a Section or Working Group so that they have more investment in IAMCR and are therefore more motivated to attend.

Would it be a good idea for us to:

- 1) Authorise the appointment of advisory committees to each Section - to assist Section Chairs to select themes for their Sections, share ideas about the key scholars who might be invited to attend, focus attention on the issues in the Section, and to develop a global perspective within each Section. This group could also potentially become the group from which Section Chairs are elected.
- 2) Recommend that Sections schedule Section Plenaries - sessions where keynote issues for the section are addressed.
- 3) Provide a budget that allows Section Chairs to invite keynote speakers for the Section - I'm not imagining that all costs of such invited participants should be covered, but that some payment towards their travel and/or accommodation could be offered.
- 4) Have the International Council take a greater interest in the appointment of Section Chairs.
- 5) Remove the (artificial and meaningless) distinctions between Sections and Working Groups so that as an Association we are able to operate in a more flexible manner.
- 6) Borrow from ICA the practice of awarding prizes for the best papers scheduled in each Section; the best books published by association members. (Awards of this sort are becoming more important as signs of achievement in universities throughout the world - we need to keep up)."

Hillel Nossek

"I think the basic structure of the conferences that allows for sections and plenary sessions is good. The plenary sessions as far as I know are usually planned by the local organizing committee and the sections by the section heads. In order to improve both I suggest the following:

- The organizing committee will organize only one plenary session and all the rest will be organized by the EB or a conference committee of the IC. This will ensure a better general view of the main theoretical and research issues in the field and allow for inviting the leading figures to take part in the debate. The local organizing committee will also organize the cultural activities and meetings with the local media professionals.
- As for the sections I suggest to leave the planning of their programs within the sections, but look for a more common and transparent standards for the selection of papers that will improve the academic work we are doing side by side with the inspiring and fruitful intellectual exchange of ideas.

Manuel Parés y Maicas

"... Our conferences are not very innovative, what can originate a certain lack of enthusiasm of part of the membership and if we attend the event it is not precisely by its distinctive intellectual contribution on a topic, but because it offers the possibility of contacting people, presenting our papers (in relation to our cv) or just tourism.

My experience begins in 1976 and I have always felt that it was necessary to focus each conference on a definite research subject, interdisciplinary and connect with its social change, as a consequence of the relationship between research and reality. I have tried it in 1988 with a very limited success as to link the role of the mass communication with the cultural identity. Other Conferences, indeed, have tried it as well. I know that it is difficult to apply such criteria to the Sections and to the working groups.

As a matter of fact, the intellectual research interests of many participants are primarily concerned with their topic of research and cv. For this reason the title of the Conference often is just indicative.

What I propose is to discuss if this innovative approach of the Conferences based upon a special topic in each case, setting up a special area of reflection, is a need felt by the membership. ... Participating means an effort and a cost, and personally speaking I feel, sometimes, a certain lack of intellectual and research satisfaction."

Anonymous submitted by Friedrich Krotz

"At my department, papers and proceedings are still counted (but not highly) as a publication.

I am aware of colleagues (and I'm one of them) who decide not to visit a particular conference because the paper is not published in a proceeding, thus limiting the revenues of visiting that particular conference. Thus, I'm convinced that the attendance rate will rise if papers are published in a proceeding distributed among the conference attendees, preferably with an ISBN-number. I would thus advise the organizers to make such an effort. Although I have already registered and will attend this conference, I'm quite sure I will not visit conferences to come if I know in advance that there will be no proceedings."

Other comments on the listserve (edited and summarised by RM)

- "Unless IAMCR conference registration fees are set to be more in line with those of other scholarly organizations, I predict that attendance will decline over time and be less diverse in terms of geography and academic rank, which would be a shame considering that IAMCR has been the most truly international organization in our field for many years. I hope the next president, executive board and international council will take this matter very seriously when negotiating for future conference venues" (David Weaver).
- "How academically sound is the selection process of conference papers and the invitation of panel speakers?: i.e. is it still possible that a division head can be the sole judge of this, and then based only on abstracts?
- There are very clear exceptions, but is it acceptable that an international organisation can stage a conference where the venues change without prior notice and panel chairs and speakers do not turn up as have happened in the past?

- Why is it necessary for an organisation that seemingly prides itself to be aware of the wide discrepancies between rich and poor around the world to hold conferences that does not reflect this awareness? ... is it possible that the IAMCR is in a sense such an elitist organisation, not able to realise that competing with other organisations in glossy banquets and expensive hotel venues is not the issue, but *inter alia* making it possible for scholars from the South to attend affordable conferences? will it not be in the interest of all if sponsorship money is rather made available to students and other colleagues from the South to attend conferences with their colleagues from the North in more humble venues, rather than to spend it on food?" (Arnold de Beer)

Current Guidelines

IAMCR Congress/Conference Policy

May 15, 2003 (Amended 11 May 2008):

The Conference Policy Committee of the International Council made the following recommendations in May 2003. These have been updated by the current President in a minor way as of 11 May 2008. They are being made available for further discussion and possible amendment:

Conference guidelines

In order to promote and guarantee the international character of the IAMCR, its commitment to the freedom of speech and the right to communicate, its commitment to free scholarly activity and a fair and balanced representation of scholars, the following guidelines apply:

Guidelines for the organising body

The organisers of the congress/conference and other activities taking place under the responsibility or co-operation of the IAMCR should take into consideration:

- the aims and mission statement of the IAMCR
- its scholarly, professional and international character
- the need to identify a local academic body to act as the local organiser
- take all necessary measures to secure freedom of speech and a balanced representation of scholars

The candidate organisation/institution is required to make a formal proposal, which will then be presented to the governing bodies and membership of the Association: the Executive Board, the International Council and the General Assembly.

The proposal should address the following issues:

Administration

1. Name and approval of the local organiser
2. A full draft programme between two and five days
3. Visa and other (vaccination etc) requirements including the intention that the local organiser will assist all potential participants to attend the conference
4. Capacity (rooms, offices etc.) of the conference site
5. Technical equipment of the site
6. Accommodation and sustenance: options and “insider tips” for health and safety
7. Availability and extent of simultaneous translation
8. Tentative timetable for the submission/acceptance of abstracts/papers

Budget

9. The basic participation fee should only include direct costs

10. All other costs, such as accommodation, meals, transport etc. are paid separately by the participants. A range of options will be presented by the local organiser
11. A special discount fee for the same services as the standard fee for postgraduate students/junior scholars (according to age and/or status) and participants from low-income countries.
12. The conference fee cannot exceed the maximum amount agreed by the IC (currently at US\$350 for 5 day venue or varied as per agreement with the Executive Board and the IC)
13. A breakdown of expected private and public sponsors and their contribution
14. A full budget proposal including breakdown of costs, potential sponsorships, fees, and other expenses, studentships etc.

Academic Content

15. The topic of the conference should be announced together with a rationale that justifies the choice and its attraction to an international audience
16. A list of potential keynote speakers paying particular attention to gender balance
17. Efforts to attract local and regional scholars and professionals
18. Efforts to provide the possibility for the production of collective academic work, e.g. proceedings.
19. Space/facilities allocated for the exhibition of academic activities of IAMCR members (such as book/information stands etc)
20. Flexibility to accommodate ad hoc academic, scholarly special events before, after or within the main venue

The local organisers and members of the Executive Board will specify the mode of collaboration regarding the concrete planning, announcement etc. of the event, and the Executive Board will be regularly posted about the development.

After the event, the local organisers are required to provide a **complete financial and demographic report** submitted to the Executive Board, International Council and the General Assembly. All information in its final form should be available to the members in the same year that the conference takes place and no later than 2 months after the event.

Appendix 7 Election Committee

Geographical balance of the Executive Board

I had pointed out in due time (to no avail, for this) when the last changes of statutes were made, that the postal/electronic voting for the board might lead to a misrepresentation of IAMCR members by its elected officials. The current situation (of course in no way accountable to the current board, they just were elected according to these provisions), shows the problem clearly, with two colleagues holding positions in London, a French and a Danish one, and only a Brazilian colleague outside Western Europe.

My suggestion for the future, which could be an amendment in the postal (or electronic) voting procedure, if the IC and then the GA agree, is that the "Representative" part of the Board, meaning the President and the 2 Vice-Presidents, should candidate together as a "ticket", and that 3 different continents should mandatorily be represented in that "ticket".

Secretary General and Treasurer would be elected separately, in order then to allow then a "Political" balance within the board, and also because their tasks are as technical as political: we cannot all have the dedication and skills of a treasurer or an SG.

Philippe Maarek, email 20 April 2008 sent to IC members

Appendix 8 Clarification of Voting for Section Heads and Working Group members

As Ole reminded us, the legally binding decision about sections and working group chairs is the GA voting. It has been pointed several times to our attention that Sections and Working Groups should keep their specific (but always democratic) own election processes because they work on dissimilar ways: for instance, some working groups are relatively small, but all the members always attend the Congress, so the business meeting vote is fine, some Sections are big, with different members attending every year, so the process will be different, etc. etc.

So the statutes leave it to Sections or WG to organize as they wish their elections, with the guarantee of the submission to the GA vote, so if something is wrong, it can be pointed out there.

Email from Philippe Maarek 14 May 2008

Appendix 9 Application for upgrade to Section status for the IAMCR Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication working group.

As Chair and convenor of the IAMCR working group on Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication, I wish to apply for the working group to be upgraded to the status of IAMCR Section.

Since its inception twenty years ago at the IAMCR Conference in Barcelona, Spain, in 1988, the IAMCR Environmental Issues working group has evolved from an originally relatively narrow focus on 'media and environmental issues' to include a much broader spectrum of media and communications issues regarding science, medicine/health, environment and risk. The group's network of international scholars has similarly expanded and diversified very considerably, reflecting in some respects the 'up-and-down' cycles of media and public interest in environmental issues, but also showing a firm and steady consolidation of this sub-field of media and communications research as a significant new focus.

Work first presented at the Group's sessions at IAMCR conferences over the past two decades has become an important part of the growing body of scholarly literature sustaining this subfield of media and communications research. Indeed, one of the first edited collections specifically on the *Mass Media and Environmental Issues* (Hansen, 1993) drew its major contributions/authors from work first presented in the IAMCR Environmental Issues working group, and members of the group have had work, first presented in the working group, published in a wide range of prominent communications or communications-related journals, including: *Media, Culture and Society; Science Communication; Public Understanding of Science; Science Technology & Human Values; Risk Analysis; Science as Culture; Gazette*, etc.

At the recent successful sessions of the group at the IAMCR 50th Anniversary conference in Paris, 2007, the Environment working group saw the largest number of submissions yet, as well as the highest attendance yet experienced in the group's first two decades. A sign of the continuing and growing strength of this field is also evidenced by an even higher (than for Paris 2007), number of abstracts submitted to this group for the forthcoming IAMCR Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, July 2008 (').

There is thus every sign that this is a field of increasing importance and interest to the scholarly community of media and communication researchers, and the time is therefore ripe for further consolidating the global networking of environmental and science communication scholars through elevation from working group to Section status within the IAMCR. An elevation to Section status would significantly help meet the growing scholarly interest in this subfield, but more importantly it would signal the IAMCR as the natural forum of choice for the increasing number of scholars researching in the overlapping fields of media/communication and the sociology of science, environment, health and risk. In this respect, an elevation to IAMCR Section status would also strengthen the scope and potential for connecting and collaborating with and across other forums and associations of environmental/science-communication scholars, such as the ECN (Environmental Communication Network) and the newly established Environment/Science Communication section in the ECREA.

Anders Hansen
Chair: IAMCR Environmental Issues, Science and Risk Communication Working Group

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Recent sessions of the IAMCR Environment working group:

IAMCR Conference location	Year	Slots	Presentations	Poster presentations
Budapest, Hungary	2001	1	7	
Barcelona, Spain	2002	2	11	
Porto Alegre, Brazil	2004	2	13	
Cairo, Egypt	2006	3	14	
Paris, France	2007	2	12	13
Stockholm, Sweden	2008	8	40	

(*) I am very grateful indeed to IAMCR Secretary General Ole Prehn and the Swedish organisers of the Stockholm Conference for allocating a significantly increased number of slots to the Environment working group, thus enabling the acceptance of no less than 40 papers for presentation at the IAMCR Conference in July 2008.

Appendix 10 Marjan De Bruin, Communication and HIV Working Group – upgrade to Section called Health, Communication and Change.

And Working Group Communication and HIV/AIDS

New section

The Working Group Communication and HIV/AIDS proposes the establishment of a new section: *Health, Communication and Change*. This section will be the home base for the current Working Group *Communication and HIV/AIDS* “to pursue more specific topics of interest.” (Statutes, article 9).

Rationale

The Working group Communication and HIV/AIDS has specialized in one area of concern: HIV and AIDS, with an emphasis on prevention interventions.

The Working Group, in six years of existence, has gained a stable position on the Association’s annual and bi-annual academic presentations agenda. The topic itself has been focus of attention in two plenaries (Barcelona 2002 and Cairo 2006) and the Working Group’s sessions have attracted a growing number of submissions, from 17 in Porto Alegre (2004) to over 55 in Stockholm (2008).

Although – from a quantitative perspective – the Working Group deserves the status of a Section, there are arguments that need to be considered against this.

The focus of the Working group is specialized. The behavioural, social and political challenges related to HIV and AIDS seem to be unique and complex – understandable when the main focus is on such a multi-dimensional and multi-layered problem. The nature of the problem justifies specialized attention.

But some of the academic and professional challenges in the field of Communication and HIV are not unique. They also occur in discussions and scholarly work focused on many other of the world’s major health problems. (Health is used here in the WHO definition as a “state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”¹) such as for instance malaria, tuberculosis, obesity, lifestyle problems, addictions etcetera. The theoretical approaches and intervention models in the use of communication over this wide range of health issues are similar to those in the related field of HIV prevention interventions. In all areas, communication is seen as an important tool to impact individual and social behaviour as well as social conditions and policies. In the recent past, most of these theories were located in discrete different academic bases: public health, health education and health promotion. Perhaps as a result of this, “communication” in most of these theories and models is defined rather narrowly as merely the transmission of messages with an equally limited focus on the operationalization of this concept in interventions and strategies.

The recognition of the role communication can play in social and behaviour change would contribute to a richer understanding and be beneficial where problematic health issues are concerned.

¹ Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as adopted by the International Health Conference, New York, 19-22 June, 1946; signed on 22 July 1946 by the representatives of 61 States (Official Records of the World Health Organization, no. 2, p. 100) and entered into force on 7 April 1948.

History and achievements

At the 2002 Conference in Barcelona the Roundtable discussion on HIV/AIDS and Communication attracted so much interest that panelists as well as other IAMCR members supported the establishment of a new Working Group that would focus on Communication and HIV and AIDS. Working group convenors were Marjan de Bruin and Thomas Tufte.

Growing interest

Interest in the area of Communication and HIV & AIDS has been growing, not only in our discipline, but also across disciplines. Sociology, psychology, economics, public health, health education and promotion all are interested in the global challenge of confronting the pandemic. Working with such a complex and multi-layered issue presents many challenges from a variety of perspectives: practical, programmatic, policy, research and theoretically. The topics of the working group's paper and poster presentations reflect these challenges.

Wide range of presenters

Over the years, presenters in the working group have come from a wide range of countries – India and many African countries have always been present, although also many potential presenters have had to withdraw for financial reasons. Every conference has enjoyed an inspiring mix of emerging scholars and established authorities in the field among the presenters.

Increasing number of papers

In its short existence, the working group met at every single IAMCR conference since its foundation in Barcelona 2002, and will meet again in Stockholm. With the exception of Paris, where it was only allocated two slots, at every conference the number of slots, submissions and actual presentations increased.

Overview of sessions of the IAMCR working group

Communication and HIV/AIDS

Conference location	Year	Slots	Approx. # abstracts received	Accepted # abstracts for presentation	Posters #
Porto Alegre	2004	2	17	13	N.A.
Taipei	2005	3	22	17	
Cairo	2006	4+3 jointly with PCR	25	16	0
Paris	2007	2	20	9	9
Stockholm	2008	5	54	22	10

Our sister organisation, the ICA, has a rich and widely focused Health Communication division. This nomenclature, however, opens the door to a very wide spectrum of topics, including those that are focusing specifically on health care and health organisations. In our IAMCR context, we propose a name (Health, Communication and Change) that indicates clearly our proposed Section's perspective: communication used in the context of individual and behaviour change related to health topics.

Leadership

As for the leadership of the proposed section, Marjan de Bruin and Thomas Tufte volunteer to co-ordinate it collectively the first year. Thereafter a call for candidates will be initiated in order for new coordinators to be elected at the 2009 Business Meeting.

As for the Working Group on Communication and HIV/AIDS, we have two candidates, Sarah Cardey and Nancy Muturi to succeed as coordinators. This will be finally decided upon at the Business Meeting at IAMCR's Conference in Stockholm.

Conclusion

Based on all of the above, we propose the establishment of a new section – ‘Health, Communication and Change’ – and the continuation of the current Working Group – ‘Communication and HIV/AIDS’ which will be connected to this section.

Marjan de Bruin and Thomas Tufte
June 4th 2008

**Appendix 11 Proposal for a New Working Group on Crises Communication
(Ester Pollak Stockholm University and Sigurd Allern, University of Oslo)**

We hereby propose that the IAMCR establishes a working group on *Crises Communication*. The aim of this working group would be to provide a forum at IAMCR conferences for scholars researching the mediation of crises, catastrophes, disasters and risks, combining global and local perspectives. It would be a meeting point for communication scholars working both with journalism studies and communication management.

Today studies on the field are conducted in many different disciplines inside both natural sciences and social sciences, media- and communication studies and journalism studies being among them. During the last years the interest for crises communication has been increasing; examples are natural catastrophes, like the Asian tsunami, global threats of epidemics, like the bird flu, and threats connected to war and terrorism. Within the IAMCR the academic debate about these topics has been going on in many different sections and working groups. In our opinion the time is ripe to initiate a new working group connecting these theoretical and empirical debates. We think the field will benefit from such a meeting point.

The new working group could also stimulate fruitful discussions about threat-image constructions and the consequences for democracy and civil rights.

A planned special seminar on crises and crises journalism, focusing on the mediation of the Asian tsunami, held at IAMCR congress in July 2008 can function as a starting point for this working group. Responsible for this seminar is Professor Sigurd Allern, University of Oslo

Submitted by Professor Ester Pollak, University of Stockholm